

Cambridge Police Department



2005

Third Quarter Crime Report

Covering January 1- September 30,
2005

Statistics, Descriptions and Analysis Covering Part I and II Crimes	Cambridge Neighborhood Crime Statistics
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Crime reports are now available online at www.cambridgepolice.org

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
2005 THIRD QUARTER
CRIME REPORT

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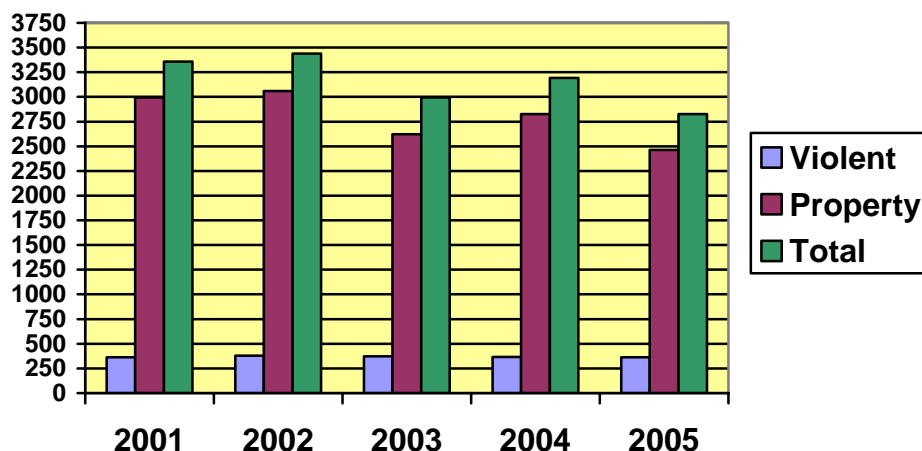
Crimes Reported in Cambridge

January 1 to September 30, 2005

Part I Crime	2002 1/1-9/30	2003 1/1-9/30	2004 1/1-9/30	2005 1/1-9/30	% Change 04-05
Murder	5	2	0	3	n/a
Rape	10	7	10	10	No change
Stranger	2	1	2	3	n/a
Non-Stranger	8	6	8	7	n/a
Robbery	133	163	165	177	7%
Commercial	27	28	45	55	22%
Street	106	135	120	122	2%
Agg. Assault	231	201	190	174	-8%
Burglary	569	448	506	502	-1%
Commercial	128	113	83	110	33%
Residential	441	335	423	392	-7%
Larceny	2143	1851	1991	1748	-12%
Building	403	403	437	408	-7%
Fm. Motor Vehicle	561	487	548	416	-24%
Person	296	239	254	258	2%
Bicycle	227	169	195	185	-5%
Shoplifting	349	265	289	293	1%
Residence	158	167	173	136	-21%
MV Plate	76	63	45	29	-36%
Services	23	26	22	15	-32%
Misc.	50	32	28	8	-71%
Auto Theft	347	324	329	213	-35%
Total Violent	379	373	365	364	-.2%
Total Prop.	3059	2623	2826	2463	-13%
Index Total	3438	2996	3191	2827	-11%

*Note: percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to lead to a statistically misleading percentage.

5 Year Crime Comparison January - September



First Nine Months in Review

Index crimes are down 11% in Cambridge over the first three quarters of 2005. Decreases were recorded in nearly every larceny type, registering a 12% decrease in larceny overall. Auto theft is significantly down (35%) so far this year as well.

Two homicides were recorded in August, the result of an arson in the Inman/Harrington neighborhood. The suspect in this incident is awaiting trial.

Commercial robbery and commercial burglary are up 22% and 33%, respectively. Increases in robbery can be partially attributed to a pattern of gasoline station robberies earlier in the year.

A professional commercial burglary pattern targeting restaurants and bars has been active in the City throughout the year, and has helped to drive the increase in totals.

Crimes Reported in Cambridge

Part II Crimes	2004 1/1-9/30	2005 1/1-9/30	% Change 04-05
Narcotics*	91	115*	+26%
Malicious Destruction Total	658	593	-10%
Car Window	134	122	-9%
Car (Other)	109	104	-5%
Graffiti	74	80	+8%
Pinstriping	48	51	+4%
Tire Slashing	111	76	-32%
Business Window	30	43	+43%
Business (Other)	31	35	+13%
Attempted Theft	22	8	-64%
House Window	27	21	-22%
Residence (Other)	53	36	-32%
Revenge	19	17	-11%
Fraud Total	335	330	-1.5%
Embezzlement	7	8	+14%
Counterfeiting	9	18	+100%
Identity Theft	68	91	+34%
Forgery/ Uttering Total	226	180	-20%
Application	5	6	+20%
Bad Check	13	14	+8%
Forged Check	53	56	+6%
ATM/Credit Card	139	98	-30%
Miscellaneous Forgery	16	6	-63%
Con Game Total	25	33	+32%
Big Carrot Con	6	7	+17%
Utility Impostor Con	3	0	-100%
Pigeon Drop Con	2	5	+150%
Psychic Con	1	1	0%
Miscellaneous Con games	13	20	+54%
Sex Offenses Total	78	72	-8%
Annoying & Accosting	11	7	-36%
Indecent Assault	24	17	-29%
Peeping & Spying	8	5	-38%
Prostitution and Soliciting	1	7	+600%
Obscene Phone Calls	10	4	-60%
Indecent Exposure	24	32	+33%
Disorderly Conduct	29	20	-31%
Drinking in Public	26	27	+4%
Extortion/Blackmail	3	0	-100%
Hit & Run Accidents	476	627	+32%
Kidnapping	0	4	N/a
Liquor Violations	4	3	-25%
OUI	49	35	-29%
Threats	279	260	-7%
Traffic Arrests	94	139	+48%
Trespassing	47	37	-21%
Weapons Violations	23	4	-83%
TOTAL Part II Crimes	2192	2266	+3%

*Note that 95% of the Narcotics incidents resulted in an arrest.

January 1 to September 30

First Nine Months in Review

Part Two crimes have increased three percent in the first three quarters of 2005 compared to last year. Increases in narcotics related arrests, prostitution arrests, certain malicious destruction incidents and certain fraud types helped to drive this increase.

Note that increases in certain percentages are often the result of greater police presence or successful investigations. The increases in arrests for prostitution, narcotics and traffic crimes are examples that reflect diligent police work.

There were 33 reports of various con-games or flim-flams reported. Seven of those were considered "Big Carrot" cons where the suspect tries to get money from victims by telling them that they won something, or by trying to sell them merchandise under false pretenses. All of these incidents occurred in the first six months of the year. Miscellaneous con games include internet related scams and charity scams.

The most commonly reported type of malicious destruction incidents involve damage to motor vehicles, including broken windows, tire slashings and pinstriping (key scratches). All forms of destruction to motor vehicles except pinstriping recorded decreases as of the first nine months of the year.

2005 Third Quarter Highlights

Murder:

- ◆ In the first nine months of 2005, three homicides were reported as the result of two incidents.
- ◆ The first incident was of a domestic nature, and the offender, the victim's husband, was apprehended in North Carolina. He has been indicted in Middlesex Court and awaits trial. This incident was the first reported murder in Cambridge since November of 2003.
- ◆ The second and third reported murders in Cambridge this year took place in early August. The two individuals fell victim to arson, finding themselves trapped in a burning building in the Inman/Harrington neighborhood. A Cambridge man who lived in the targeted complex was arrested and has been indicted for these homicides.

Rape:

- ◆ **Acquaintance Rapes** are non-domestic rapes committed by someone who knows the victim. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances, including "date rapes."
- ◆ **Blitz Rapes** are stranger rapes in which the rapist assaults the victim on the street with no prior contact. Generally, the suspect "comes out of nowhere."
- ◆ **Contact Rapes** are stranger rapes in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain their confidence before assaulting them. Contact rapists typically pick up their victims in bars, lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation in which they can begin their assault.
- ◆ **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, and family members.
- ◆ During the first three quarters of 2005, 10 rapes were reported; three stranger rapes and seven acquaintance rapes.
 - The most notable reports came in late September, and involved two incidents of a man picking women up in Boston's financial district between 1-3am, pretending to be a taxi driver. The man transported the women to the vicinity of Alewife station, where he assaulted them. An arrest has been made in relation to these incidents, which have since ceased.

Robbery:

- ◆ Over the first nine months of 2005, commercial robberies increased by 22%, but street robbery increased by only two incidents, in comparison to the first nine months of 2004.
- ◆ Part of the increase in commercial robberies has been due to a series of gas station robberies early in the year, a pattern which began in the last quarter of 2004, and continued into this year.
 - Commercial robberies were highest during the first quarter of 2005, possibly due to the aforementioned gasoline station pattern.
 - In April three consecutive bank robberies led to the arrest of a Boston man who was targeting banks in the western half of the city.
 - The top three business districts for commercial robbery were Inman Square, Central Square and East Cambridge/Galleria.
 - ◆ Inman Square averaged one to three incidents per month until September when the business district incurred a sudden surge in incidents, six of the reported 17 incidents to date.
 - ◆ Of these incidents, three took place at the Cambridge Portuguese Credit Union, starting in late August. All three incident had similar modus operandi and suspect descriptions. A suspect has been identified in this string of incidents.

- ◆ Of the 122 reported street robberies, 12 (10%) resulted in an arrest.
 - A trend indicates that females were targeted as victims in the early part of the year more regularly than before. This is unusual, as the majority of street robbery victims are usually 20-30 year old males.
 - Cambridgeport, Area 4 and Mid-Cambridge/East Cambridge made up the top three neighborhoods for street robbery in the first nine months of the year.
 - ◆ Over half of the reported Cambridgeport street robberies took place during the summer. However, the incidents varied in categories, as they included homeless, predatory, pack robberies, etc. No discernable trend arose from these incidents.

Burglary:

- ◆ Over the past three quarters Cambridge has experienced a 1% decrease in burglaries.
- ◆ The most significant pattern in burglaries over the past nine months has been the substantial increase in professional commercial burglaries, producing a 34% increase over last year's third quarter totals.
 - These burglaries are marked by methodical entry into buildings, including cutting holes through the walls of adjacent businesses, and the theft of safes or large cash sums.
 - Most of the professional breaks took place during weekend nights, in the predawn hours.
 - Many businesses, of various kinds, have been targeted along Massachusetts Avenue, throughout the city.
- ◆ Housebreaks decreased by eight percent relative to 2004 reports.
- ◆ However, during the first quarter of the year there was a sharp increase in incidents. The jump was due to an overwhelming increase in incidents in East Cambridge. The pattern dissipated with the arrest of a professional burglar.
 - To date, East Cambridge has remained among the hottest neighborhoods for housebreaks this year.

Larceny:

- ◆ Almost all larceny categories have declined, collectively decreasing larceny incidents by 12% in comparison 2004 reports.
- ◆ The top larceny category this year has been larceny from motor vehicle.
 - Cambridgeport, North Cambridge and East Cambridge ranked among the highest reported incidents for larceny from motor vehicle.
 - The most common method of entry to vehicles was via a broken/smashed window.
 - The most notable trend in car breaks had been the theft of motor vehicle headlights, particularly Audi's. This trend was present throughout all of 2004, intensified towards the second half of that year, and continued into the early part of 2005. However, the theft of tires from Honda's has resurfaced as a trend of concern in the third quarter of the year, particularly in West Cambridge.
- ◆ Although larceny from persons has only increased by two percent, it is an incident type which has been popular at eating establishments, particularly cafes.
 - Typically patrons who leave unattended personal items are targeted, or those who place their property out of their sight.

Auto Theft:

- ◆ There were no significant patterns in auto theft over the past nine months.
- ◆ Auto thefts to date have decreased by 35% from 2004 third quarter rates.
- ◆ In the first nine months of the year, there has been a 52% recovery rate for stolen motor vehicles.

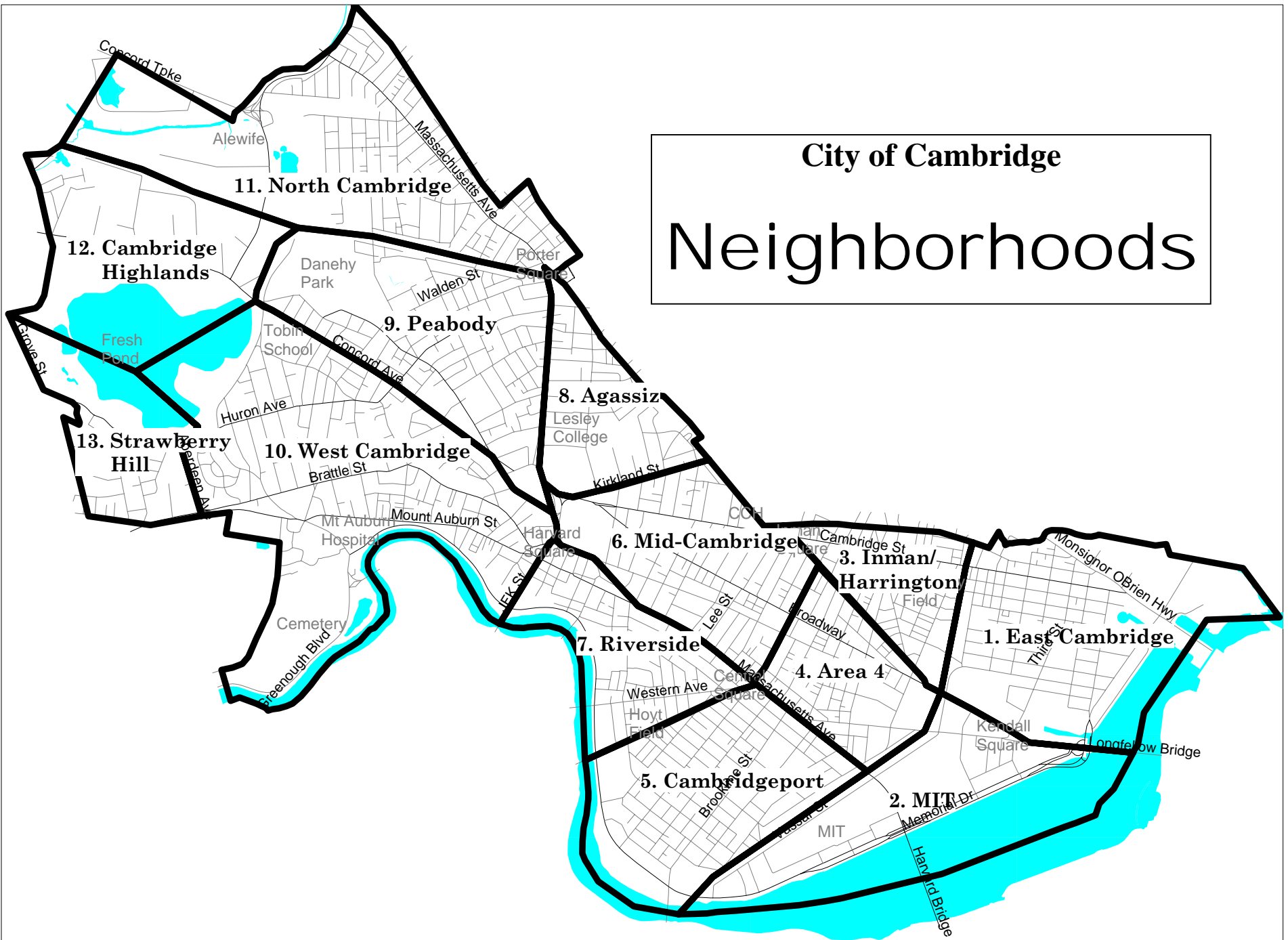
Cambridge Police Response Strategies

The Cambridge Police Department utilizes a number of different strategies and tactics to interdict and attack identified crime patterns and trends. *Problem Oriented Policing* is a technique that is employed to combat long-standing crime problems. With POP, the Department analyses situations, responds in a number of appropriate ways, and then assesses the outcome of these actions. The community is kept abreast of emerging hotspots in their neighborhoods through scheduled monthly meetings. In more dramatic cases, a crime alert is dispatched to the affected area.

If ongoing target crime patterns arise, various patrol responses are deployed. Some officers are used as decoys, surveillance units cover potential suspects, and patrol cruisers are directed to specific locations for deterrence and suppression of criminal activity. Regardless of the response strategy, the safety of all citizens remains paramount to the Department.

City of Cambridge

Neighborhoods



Neighborhood Crimes Reported in Cambridge January-September 2001-2005

NEIGHBORHOOD 1: EAST CAMBRIDGE

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	31	34	25	24	57
Street Robbery	12	9	10	13	13
Auto Theft	56	45	34	42	19
Larceny from MVs	61	69	103	49	40
Malicious Destruction	87	104	95	62	64
Drug Incidents	7	11	20	8	13

NEIGHBORHOOD 2: M.I.T. Area

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	0	0	1	2	2
Street Robbery	2	0	2	2	2
Auto Theft	18	4	8	13	3
Larceny from MVs	25	10	18	11	10
Malicious Destruction	8	6	12	7	10
Drug Incidents	1	2	1	0	1

NEIGHBORHOOD 3: Inman/Harrington

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	29	32	10	43	26
Street Robbery	7	10	6	4	12
Auto Theft	26	41	41	35	16
Larceny from MVs	26	28	23	40	22
Malicious Destruction	59	48	53	56	53
Drug Incidents	15	3	19	11	9

NEIGHBORHOOD 4: Area 4

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	54	41	30	49	28
Street Robbery	18	23	22	25	19
Auto Theft	64	50	46	30	19
Larceny from MVs	82	62	34	51	31
Malicious Destruction	97	88	76	70	60
Drug Incidents	17	13	19	12	29

NEIGHBORHOOD 5:**Cambridgeport**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	39	59	38	40	52
Street Robbery	19	9	29	23	23
Auto Theft	57	50	58	41	29
Larceny from MVs	76	54	66	69	62
Malicious Destruction	90	105	111	127	64
Drug Incidents	9	13	14	13	22

NEIGHBORHOOD 6:**Mid-Cambridge**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	81	76	69	68	64
Street Robbery	13	11	10	9	13
Auto Theft	34	19	27	23	24
Larceny from MVs	65	109	59	71	49
Malicious Destruction	82	102	66	49	72
Drug Incidents	14	8	3	5	15

NEIGHBORHOOD 7:**Riverside**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	45	31	28	35	26
Street Robbery	8	9	12	16	12
Auto Theft	42	29	24	24	14
Larceny from MVs	27	33	22	31	31
Malicious Destruction	85	71	52	46	51
Drug Incidents	18	13	13	11	8

NEIGHBORHOOD 8:**Agassiz**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	13	38	14	34	12
Street Robbery	4	5	2	3	3
Auto Theft	11	15	11	5	10
Larceny from MVs	25	40	21	32	19
Malicious Destruction	24	19	10	13	14
Drug Incidents	0	2	1	1	2

NEIGHBORHOOD 9:**Peabody**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	20	48	38	50	40
Street Robbery	7	6	8	7	8
Auto Theft	30	25	20	41	19
Larceny from MVs	52	45	33	68	45
Malicious Destruction	74	91	57	68	56
Drug Incidents	8	2	6	7	2

NEIGHBORHOOD 10:**West Cambridge**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	35	28	28	32	34
Street Robbery	7	11	7	5	4
Auto Theft	25	16	23	29	20
Larceny from MVs	31	39	39	47	40
Malicious Destruction	78	47	59	51	43
Drug Incidents	7	3	2	5	4

NEIGHBORHOOD 11:**North Cambridge**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	29	47	46	36	44
Street Robbery	4	9	23	11	9
Auto Theft	36	36	24	30	32
Larceny from MVs	48	54	45	52	42
Malicious Destruction	96	91	76	63	76
Drug Incidents	11	7	6	14	9

NEIGHBORHOOD 12:**Cambridge Highlands**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	0	1	3	1	1
Street Robbery	0	1	1	1	3
Auto Theft	10	2	3	9	3
Larceny from MVs	10	10	15	18	14
Malicious Destruction	8	18	21	34	16
Drug Incidents	3	1	1	1	1

NEIGHBORHOOD 13:**Strawberry Hill**

CRIME	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Housebreaks	4	10	6	9	6
Street Robbery	1	2	2	1	1
Auto Theft	12	8	4	5	4
Larceny from MVs	10	7	9	8	11
Malicious Destruction	26	13	20	12	14
Drug Incidents	1	3	2	2	0